

ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 16, 2026

The Ashland City Council met for a regular meeting on Monday, February 16, 2026, at 5:30 P.M. in the Ashland City Hall Auditorium with Mayor Larry J. Fetner presiding. Council Members present were Dianne Ballard, Traskey Ford, Jessica Heath, Annette Gaither, and Tommy Cantrell. Also present were Magistrate/City Hall Aide Robyn Waters, Fire Chief Josh Nelson, Parks and Recreation/Youth Sports Director Raquil Ward, Assistant Police Chief/Investigator Shanon House, Paul Freeman, and Cici Bowman with the Clay Times Journal.

Not present were City Clerk/Administrator Chelsey Wynn, Assistant City Clerk/Court Clerk Robin Catrett, Police Chief Joseph Stanford, and Maintenance Supervisor Phillip Stinson.

Magistrate/City Hall Aide Robyn Waters called roll and deemed a quorum present.

Mayor Fetner called the meeting to order, and Dianne Ballard gave the invocation.

Council Member Cantrell made a motion to approve the agenda. Council Member Heath seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Ballard made a motion to approve the previous regular meeting minutes. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Informational:

- 1.) Mayor and Council discussed the current Holiday Schedule. Council Member Ballard made a motion to add President's Day to the Holiday Schedule. Council Member Heath seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.
- 2.) Paul Freeman with Fresh Air Family gave a presentation on Gross Out Camp for kids at the city park. The camp usually has about 20 campers and 3 workers and lasts about 10 weeks from 9 am to 5 pm Monday-Friday, for children in the 1st to 4th grade range. The fee is \$350 per child and the organization has fund raisers to help with the cost and there is also financial aid help. Mayor Fetner requested that Council Member Ford and Parks and Recreation/Youth Sports Director Raquil Ward meet with Mr. Freeman and work out the details of having the Gross Out Camp in the city park.

Committee Reports:

Mayor Fetner did not report

Council Member Ballard did not report.

Council Member Ford thanked the Council for sending him and Parks and Recreation/Youth Sports Director Raquil Ward to the annual state conference for Parks and Recreation.

Council Member Heath did not report.

Council Member Gaither reported that she worked with Police Chief Joseph Stanford, Maintenance Supervisor Phillip Stinson, and Parks and Recreation/Youth Sports Director Raquil Ward in getting the pathway

completed at the Food Truck Court. She also discussed the idea of putting up a black fence between the Food Truck Court and the alley beside City Hall. Mayor Fetner advised he would get with Fincher Fence and request an estimate on a fence. Council Member Gaither also reported that she, Council Member Ford, and Maintenance Supervisor Phillip Stinson have looked at the bridges in the City Park and are in the process of making a plan to have them fixed.

Council Member Cantrell did not report.

Assistant Police Chief/Investigator Shanon House did not report.

Magistrate/City Hall Aide Robyn Waters did not report.

Fire Chief Josh Nelson reported on a major mobile home fire on Co. Rd. 71 early this morning and thanked Lineville Fire Department for their assistance.

New Business:

Council Member Gaither made a motion to approve the current bills received since the last regular meeting in the amount of \$19,865.41. Council Member Cantrell seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cantrell made a motion to approve the Voting Delegate for the Alabama League Conference with Mayor Fetner as Voting Delegate, Council Member Gaither as 1st Alternate, and Council Member Ballard as 2nd Alternate. Council Member Ford seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Heath made a motion to approve the lease agreement with Gary Martin. Council Member Ballard seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Cantrell made a motion to approve the 2026 Chamber of Commerce contract for \$5,400. Council Member Ford seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion to approve matching funds for the Rebuild Alabama project matching funds of \$154,347.87 (\$125,373.83 from Rebuild Alabama Funds & \$28,974.04 from 4-Cent Gas Tax Funds). Council Member Heath seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Ballard made a motion to approve the purchase of a radar unit from MPH Industries for the new police unit at a total cost of \$1,526.00. Council Member Gaither seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Heath made a motion to approve acceptance of the resignation letter from Officer Seth Searcy, effective 02/24/2026. Council Member Ford seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Council Member Gaither made a motion to approve to pay W & W \$9,365.00 for a new 5-ton heat pump for the Senior Center. Council Member Ballard seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Old Business:

Resolutions, Orders, Ordinances, and Other Business

There being no further business, Council Member Ford made a motion to adjourn. Council Member Cantrell seconded the motion, and all votes were unanimous.

Mayor

Attest